

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 6, 9, 12, 18, 21, 25, 26 and 31-34 are amended and claims 1-5, 17, 24 and 28-30 are canceled, and claims 35-50 are withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 6-16, 18-23, 25-27, and 31-34 are currently pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 6-16, 18-23, 25-27 and 31-34 contain allowable subject matter, but are presently objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, the allowable subject matter of claims 6, 18, 25, and 31 have been amended accordingly. Furthermore, the above amendment indicates that claims 1-5, 17, 24 and 28-30 have been cancelled, and in view of the above amendment and following remarks obviates the objection to claims 6-16, 18-23, 25-27 and 31-34, and thereby all claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 04192317 (Masahiro) and has rejected claims 1-5, 17 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application EP 0877297 to Hara (hereinafter Hara), and has rejected claims 1-5, 17, 24 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,447,964 to Okino et al. (hereinafter Okino).

These rejections are moot with regards to claims 1-5, 17, 24 and 28-30 in view of their cancellation. Additionally, these rejections are believed moot in view of the incorporation of the allowed subject matter indicated above, for example "wherein said predicted thermally-induced field deformation information includes predicting deformation of facts of selected points within each of said fields based on a global expansion model," originally found in claim 6, and the incorporation of: "wherein said temperature variation measurement includes thermographic imaging," originally found in allowed claim 25.

The Applicants respectively submit that the above discussed amendments are made in the interest of compact prosecution, and do not concede that the previously claimed subject matter was amended because it lacked patentability either as a whole, or attributable to any one or more features found therein. One of the numerous examples that Applicants so assert,

includes the subject matter found within original claims 1-7 and 24, directed to “adjusting the modified exposure information” based upon the previously “determined corrective information.” Applicants preserve the right to pursue additional subject matter in a continuation application.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable and the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any thing further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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